(b) if so, the steps proposed for vigilance mechanism against continued malpractices by the dealers of fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order 2001 provides for stringent punishment under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 against fair price shop owners for malpractices. The Order provides the procedure for monitoring of the Public Distribution System including the functioning of the Fair Price Shops by the State Governments as under:

(i) State Governments shall ensure a proper system of monitoring of fair price shops and prescribe model sale register, stock register and ration card register.

(ii) State Governments shall ensure regular inspections of fair price shops not less than once in six months by the designated authority. State Governments may issue orders specifying the inspection schedule, list of check points and the authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the said orders.

(iii) Meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the Public Distribution System at the State, District, Block and FPS level shall be held on a regular basis. The date and periodicity shall be notified by the State Government. However, the periodicity shall not be less than one meeting a quarter at all levels.

Foodgrains to poorest families

960. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is working on a scheme wherein an additional one crore of the poorest families would be provided food at nominal prices;

(b) if so, whether he had discussions with the Prime Minister beforehand to take his consent on this;

(c) whether his Ministry plans to expand the scheme which meant for the poorest of the poor in the country; and

(d) if so, by when Government are likely to implement this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) The question of extending the scope of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) as part of the initiative towards providing support and food security to the most vulnerable sections such as old people, widows and disabled persons, without family or societal support, is receiving attention.

Quality control on imported appliances

961. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has issued mandatory quality control orders for some electrical appliances specially imparted under the compulsory certification scheme;

(b) if so, what is the mechanism that detects the violations of the orders;

(c) how many testing were carried out and how many violations have been detected during the last three years, year-wise and the action taken against the companies who violated the orders; and

(d) if negligible violations have been detected then what action Government are taking to ensure greater effectiveness in enforcing the orders of the Bureau of Indian Standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No testing has been carried out by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as it has not granted any licence to a foreign manufacture for electrical appliances.

(d) Question does not arise.

Additional storage capacity

962. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: